

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: NEW HAMPSHIRE	
COUNTY: ROCKINGHAM	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 716,33,0003	DATE 6/1/71

1. NAME

COMMON: DUDLEY HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC: PERRY-DUDLEY HOUSE

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 14 FRONT STREET, EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

CITY OR TOWN: EXETER

STATE: NEW HAMPSHIRE CODE: 33 COUNTY: ROCKINGHAM CODE: 015



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	* <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	* unoccupied (since Dec. 1, 1970)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: ROCKINGHAM NATIONAL BANK

STREET AND NUMBER: 97 WATER STREET

CITY OR TOWN: EXETER STATE: NEW HAMPSHIRE CODE: 33

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET AND NUMBER: HIGH ST. - HAMPTON RD.

CITY OR TOWN: EXETER STATE: NEW HAMPSHIRE CODE: 33

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: NEW HAMPSHIRE: A GUIDE TO THE GRANITE STATE

DATE OF SURVEY: 1938 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Ebook - sponsored by the State of New Hampshire and the W.P.A.

STREET AND NUMBER: Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1938

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: NEW HAMPSHIRE

COUNTY: ROCKINGHAM

ENTRY NUMBER: 716,33,0003

DATE: 6/1/71

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

DESCRIPTION

The Perry-Dudley House is an integral part of Exeter's historical town center. This Federal style town house, built circa 1805, shares its site of the lower end of Front Street with two houses of similar vintage, Federal style, and a later 19th century brick municipal building in the classical spirit; across the street is the superb First Congregational Church (1798) and, at the corner of Water St., the fine brick Town Hall Building (1798) from ca. 1855. Between the Church and the Town Hall stood an excellent Richardsonian Romanesque Court until its tragic demolition in 1969. Completing the space at the end of Court St. is the Swasey Bandstand, an Exeter landmark.

Said to have been built as a speculative venture by a timber merchant and mast-maker, the Perry-Dudley House, until 1935, was in the hands of two families, the Perrys and the Dudleys. It is a typical 4-square clapboard town house of its period, with a full three stories plus basement and attic. Sometime around Civil War days an "L" was added to the back, providing a new kitchen and storage areas on the first floor and an extra bedroom on the second. In addition, a separate carriage house was provided, possibly at the same time, but this was moved after 1935 to attach on to the end of the "L", making about 65 ft. of extension from the original house. In addition to the two main brick chimneys, which provide the traditional back-to-back fireplaces for the two pairs of rooms on each level, a chimney rises up from the kitchen in the "L".

The following is a description in detail of the three floors:

First Floor

Entrance is gained through a gate and fence, recently built and historically accurate. A traditional 2-column portico protects the main entrance door, with fluted pilasters and original glass in the sidelights and over the door. The hall, approximately 9 ft. in width, contains the main stair, which, contrary to usual practice, ascends from the rear and not the front of the hall; this change was made by one of the earlier owners for reasons of privacy. At the right and left, the two front rooms measure about 15 ft. x 15 ft.; each contains original fireplaces, mantels and fluted sides. To the left-hand room was added a toilet in the original closet. The back room on the right was added to by about 7 ft. in depth, presumably at the time of construction of the "L".

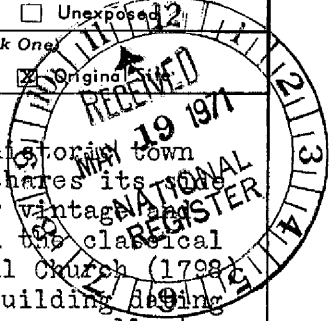
When the "L" was built, a bay window was added to the left-hand room in the back, and this original kitchen became the dining room. A recent owner installed in this room early 19th-century painted wallpaper depicting Napoleonic scenes, the work of Dufour, the great wall-paper artist. The "L" has been recently modernized, within period spirit, and a "beehive" oven replaces the Victorian stove. From this kitchen, a secondary stair goes up to the 5th bedroom area on the second floor, and down to the basement. Behind the kitchen are a pantry-work area, an entry, and, down several feet to a brick floor, a garage.

Second Floor

Here we find the traditional 4-bedroom arrangement. The main stair does not continue up beyond this level; a separate stair leads to the third floor. The first-floor extension to the right-hand back room does not continue up, nor does the garage, pantry and back entry, to this floor. Over the kitchen is a 5th bedroom and two baths, with Victorian plumbing. The left-hand rear bedroom contains the same bay window as the dining room below.

Third Floor

Here is exhibited the dimensions of the original house, approximately 40 ft. wide by 32 ft. deep, 4 bedrooms, a bath in the rear and a storage room in front. As on the second floor, one of the fireplaces has been



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

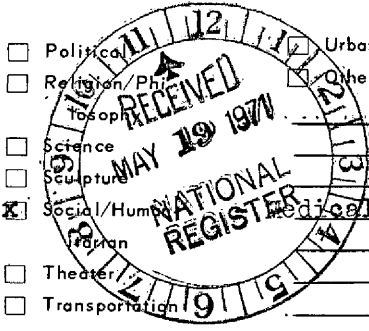
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Built between 1802 and 1815

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | Medical care |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Perry-Dudley House to the town of Exeter, the State of New Hampshire and the United States of America seems to us to lie in the following fields:

- Architecture - Landscape Architecture:** The Perry-Dudley House is a beautifully proportioned, well maintained large square Federal house built between 1802 and 1815, on its original site, with front fence, gates and auxiliary buildings. Its interior has interesting features such as the main staircase turned toward the rear so that the doctor's wife would not be seen by his waiting patients, also the dining room with its appropriate 19th cent wallpaper, and the delicate fluting on some of its fireplaces. The house has always been used as a residence and so has not been altered for other purposes. The garden is attractive with a bricked area and several trees of interest including a fair sized gingko and a katsura tree; also several roses said to have been brought by Dr. Perry's wife, Col. Nathaniel Gilman's daughter, when they moved into the house in 1818.
- Situation in the Town of Exeter;** It is situated on its original site on lower Front St., as described in New Hampshire: A Guide to the Granite State, p. 161. It has a dominant position and with its similar neighbors is the central feature of the old town of Exeter. The Perry-Dudley House, two other Federal style houses, the Town Hall and the The First Congregational Church on the opposite side, form an anchor to the upper part of Front St., which is the most historically and architecturally significant street in town. The destruction or removal of the Perry-Dudley House on this lower part of Front St. would undermine the efforts of the townspeople to preserve this vital center of Exeter.
- Social/Humanitarian:** The Perry-Dudley House in most of its approximately 170 years of existence has been owned by the same family, one distinguished in medicine in Exeter. Dr. William Perry, a graduate of Harvard in 1811, after his marriage in 1818, moved into this house constructed by Mr. Rundlett, a master mason. Dr. Perry was an enterprising man and much respected doctor, the principal physician and surgeon of his community for over fifty years. He was followed by his son Dr. William Gilman Perry, a graduate of Dartmouth in 1842, who also studied at the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York. Between them they looked after the health of the people of Exeter and surrounding area for nearly a century. Sarah Orne Jewett was a friend of the family and is believed to have drawn some of her inspiration for A Country Doctor from her visits with them. The daughter of Dr. William G. Perry married Albertus T. Dudley, a family name long associated with Exeter, as the first local member of the family, the Reverend Samuel Dudley, came to Exeter in 1650 as minister to the then tiny community. Thus for its architecture, its location in the heart of Exeter and its 170-year history the Perry-Dudley House is of prime importance to the whole area. The way of life and the service to the community which it exemplifies are a vital part of our American heritage.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Exeter in 1830: Notes and Occasional Papers. By William Gilman Perry, MD. Exeter, Preface dated 1913. (Map showing house in 1830)

New Hampshire: A Guide to the Granite State. American Guide Series. Written by Workers of the Federal Writers' Project of the Works Progress Administration for the State of New Hampshire. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston 1938. (Description of house)

A Country Doctor. By Sarah Orne Jewett. Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston 1884.
History of the Town of Exeter New Hampshire. By Charles H. Bell. Exeter: The Quarter-Millennial Year. 1888.

Also Cunningham, F.H.; Dudley, A.T.; and miscellaneous pamphlets.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

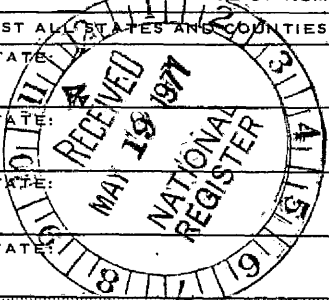
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

approx. 43
 42° 58' 49" 70° 56' 50"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 1/2 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Robert H. Bates, Chairman

ORGANIZATION: Committee of Concerned Citizens DATE: Jan. 21, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 153 High St.

CITY OR TOWN: Exeter STATE: New Hampshire CODE: 33

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: George Gilman
 Title: Commissioner
 Date: March 17, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

August A. Conroy
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUN 21 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:
William Sturtevant
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: MAY 27 1971

3/31/85 147:0260

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	
COUNTY	
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71.6.33.0003	6/5/71

(Number all entries)

PERRY-DUDLEY HOUSE - Description (Cont)

covered over. Unlike many Federal town houses, this was designed with full headroom at the perimeter for its third floor, with the windows reduced only slightly in height.

NOTES

Excepting the first floor, the original wide boards remain. Hardwood floor was installed over these boards in the original 4 rooms of the first floor. The windows have been changed from Victorian 2over 2 to period 12-pane windows, many with original glass. Indian shutters are found in the front rooms on the 2nd floor. Original moulding remains, excepting a few areas such as the rear rooms on the third floor. It is of fineness of detail, simple, and small in scale. The main stair contains exquisite scroll work outside the stringer.

Nearly all the hardware, although not always original, has been replaced by authentic period detail.

Several of the fireplaces contain original iron or brass reflecting plates.

As in the restorations at Strawberry Banke, the interior colors are generally off-white with dark trim.

On the upper floors some repainting and patching is needed; generally the condition is excellent, especially on the outside.

The outside of the house is painted an unusually pleasant shade of yellow with white trim on the windows and dark green shutters. The front fence is painted grey with white trim.

CONCLUSION

It seems imperative that this house should not only be saved for its own merits, but that its situation and value as a part of Exeter's historic town center be maintained. Relocation of this building would be scarcely better than its destruction.

